

Serial No. 09/000,301

March 10, 2004

Reply to the Office Action dated November 18, 2003

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5-11, 16, 17 and 19-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 8 and 9.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5-7, 16, 17 and 19-40 are allowed.

Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Particularly, the Examiner alleged that claims 8 and 9 are indefinite because they are dependent upon canceled claims 1-4. Applicants have amended claims 8 and 9 to be dependent upon claims 5-7 (instead of claims 1-7). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 8-11 are allowable since claims 8-11 depend upon allowed claim 5. Claims 5-7, 16, 17 and 19-40 have been allowed by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a One-month extension of time, extending to March 18, 2004, the period for response to the Office Action dated November 18, 2003.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 10, 2004

  
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